(c) and (d) Government's policy is to hold dialogue, pursue socio-economic development programmes, have right kind of laws and modernize and strengthen the police/security forces, to tackle the activities of the militants with the help of forces to protect properties, limbs and lives of innocent persons in society.

Census on caste basis

†2121. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the census held recently in the country, no information was sought about the caste;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that after 1952, no census has been conducted in the country based on caste;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to conduct census regarding Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and OBCs;

(d) if so, by when such census will be conducted; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir, information on individual caste, tribe or race has not been collected in the censuses held after the independence except for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for meeting the Constitutional requirements.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

Fake passports

†2122. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of fake passport business in the country on a large scale;

(b) if so, the number of persons arrested in this regard and action taken against them;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether Government have prepared any scheme to take stringent action to curb the said business; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As per available information 1,712 persons were found to be travelling on fake passports during 2003.

(c) and (d) Cases related to fake passports are registered by the Police in States/Union Territories and action against the culprits is initiated under Criminal Laws. Ministry of External Affairs have introduced various security features in the passports to check their faking. Besides immigration officers at international airports have been provided modern gadgets for verifying the genuineness of the travel documents. Special training is imparted to the immigration officials for detecting cases of impersonation.

Demining sets and mine-boots to Policemen

†2123. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demining sets and mine-boots have been provided to policemen posted in all naxal and terrorism affected regions of the country;

(b) if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the said equipments will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Policemen of both the State police forces as well as of Central Police Force are deployed in the naxal and terrorist affected regions of the country. These forces are being equipped with appropriate protective gear and mine sweeping equipment.

Security cover to high ranking officials and leaders in J & K

2124. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had felt the need for improved cooperation between the security forces and intelligence agencies to counter terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.